



A PORTRAIT OF

# NEW YORK CITY 2018

WELL-BEING IN THE FIVE BOROUGHES AND THE GREATER METRO AREA



## NYC METRO AREA: NEW JERSEY OVERVIEW

**New Jersey is home to metro area communities with some of the highest and the lowest scores on the American Human Development (HD) Index.** In a ranking of the New York metro area's 170 public use micro-data areas (PUMAs)—town and neighborhood clusters defined by the US Census Bureau—by their scores on the HD Index, Bergen County (East)-Tenafly, Park Ridge, and Cresskill and Union County (Northwest)-Summit and Westfield come in fourth and fifth, with scores of 8.95 and 8.92. On the other end of the spectrum were Mercer County (West Central)-Trenton, Passaic County (Southeast)-Paterson, Essex County (Southeast)-Newark (North and East), and Essex County (Southeast)-Newark (Southeast) with scores of 4.04, 3.98, 3.86, and 3.10.

Among the 100 largest metro areas in the years 2010 to 2014, Newark-Union was among the top five most-segregated metro areas by income overall, according to Brown University's Diversity and Disparities Project data tool. This is contrasted by boroughs like Summit, New Providence, Berkeley Heights, and Westfield, which are all home to long-established high-income communities chock-a-block with amenities and opportunities. **This geographic clustering intensifies the positive effects of living in a high-HD locale and the negative effects of living in a low-HD locale.** A person living in Summit who is looking for a good job or internship, enriching activities for his or her children, a medical specialist, healthy food, or a safe, pleasant place to exercise has tons of options.

### Health

- Bergen County (Southeast)-Fort Lee, Cliffside Park, and Palisades Park Boroughs ranks seventh of the ten top-scoring areas by life expectancy at 86.6 years.
- Hudson County (Central)-Jersey City (South), Essex County (Central)-East Orange, Mercer County (West Central)-Trenton, and Essex County (Southeast)-Newark (Southwest) are among the bottom ten, with life expectancies of 78.1, 78.0, 77.1, and 73.3.
- Essex County (Southeast)-Newark (Southwest) is ranked last for both life expectancy and overall HD Index score for the metro area.

### Education

- Union County (Northwest)-Summit City and Westfield Town (North), Essex County (Southwest), Mercer County (North)-Princeton Borough, and Morris County (South)-Morristown Town, Madison, and Florham Park Boroughs all score among the top ten on the Education Index, calculated based on school enrollment and educational attainment rates.
- Essex County (Southeast)-Newark City (North and East), Passaic County (Southeast)-Paterson City, and Union County (Northeast)-Elizabeth City are among the ten lowest-scoring areas on the Education Index.

## Earnings

- With a median earnings of \$67,379, Tenafly, Park Ridge, and Cresskill rank sixth-highest in the metro area in terms of median personal earnings. Summit City and Westfield Town (North) and Somerset County (North and West) are also among the ten highest-earning areas.
- Newark (Southwest), Newark (North and East), and Paterson represent three of the ten lowest-earning areas.

## Spotlight: Environmental Injustice in New Jersey

On the eleven-mile journey along the NJ Turnpike from Newark to Perth Amboy, through Elizabeth and Linden, the industrial history and character of the region becomes evident. Though the area appears entirely industrial from the Turnpike, three-quarters of a million people live in communities bordering and sometimes interspersed with these industrial sites. All the towns along this corridor are majority-minority, with major racial and ethnic groups varying by town, and the area as a whole ranks high on the demographic indicator of linguistic isolation—the concentration of families in which everyone over 14 years of age speaks English “less than well.” In Elizabeth, half of residents were not born in the United States, and in parts of Newark and Elizabeth, over a quarter of adults have not completed high school, leading to median earnings under \$25,000. The average life expectancy in Southwest Newark is 73.3 years, the lowest in the state and a full eight years less than in Elizabeth, Carteret, and Perth Amboy. Nationally, this corridor ranks in the ninetieth percentile for environmental hazard indicators such as diesel particulate matter, the respiratory hazard index, traffic proximity, and superfund and hazardous waste site proximity. **All of these data point to communities that are disadvantaged and overburdened both environmentally and economically, and it shows in their health.**

### New Jersey Turnpike Industrial Corridor



## The Five New Yorks

**Gilded New York:** Two New Jersey PUMAs are in Gilded New York. The average **HD Index score is 9.18.**

**Opportunity-Rich New York:** Nineteen New Jersey PUMAs are part of Opportunity-Rich New York. Bergen, Middlesex, and Somerset Counties are **Diverse Urban Opportunity-Rich** communities, while the majority-white PUMAs that are farther out from the urban core are **White Suburb/Exurb Opportunity-Rich**. The average **HD Index score is 7.68.**

**Main Street New York:** The average **HD Index score is 6.32.** Main Street communities are found largely in inner-ring cities in Northern and Central New Jersey.

**Struggling New York:** Struggling New York averages **4.88 on the HD Index.** Trenton, East Orange, Elizabeth, parts of Jersey City, Bayonne, Kearney, and Passaic are all industrial midsized cities in New Jersey that make up Struggling New York.

**Precarious New York:** Three New Jersey PUMAs are in Precarious New York. The average **HD Index score is 3.59.** Two in three renters face a high rent burden, and another one in three face an extremely high rent burden, meaning that many renters are living in housing they truly cannot afford.

Click [here](#) to read *A Portrait of New York City 2018*. For more information, visit [www.measureofamerica.org](http://www.measureofamerica.org).